



## City of Gallatin - Disaster Relief Bulletin

### April 11, 2006

This information has been prepared to assist Gallatin residents and property owners recover from the damaging tornado that struck Gallatin on April 7, 2006. The information presented in this bulletin is subject to change. The City will provide residents with new information as it becomes available.

#### CIVIL STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CURFEW INFORMATION

- ☒ The Civil State of Emergency order issued by the Mayor and City Council remains in effect until further notice in order to provide for the protection of the people and property in the areas affected by the tornado.
- ☒ A curfew is in effect from dusk to dawn for the following Subdivisions within the City of Gallatin: Woodhaven, Woodvale, Plantation Trace, Academy Heights, and Lake Charland. Other areas in the City may be subject to the curfew restrictions if determined to be necessary by the Chief of Police.
- ☒ Access to the above mentioned areas will initially be limited to residents, property owners, people assisting with the recovery effort, and people conducting official disaster response services.
- ☒ Persons wishing to access these areas during the dusk to dawn curfew need to be prepared to present valid photo identification at the checkpoint established for each area.
- ☒ Volunteers assisting with recovery efforts should also be prepared to provide photo identification at checkpoint locations. Access into affected areas may be limited depending on the type of recovery work being performed by repair crews and other damage assessment personnel.
- ☒ Volunteer groups should coordinate their relief efforts with the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce by calling 452-4000.
- ☒ Please contact the Police Officers or other security officials assigned to assist your neighborhood if you have any questions about specific security issues. For other non-emergency related questions, contact the Gallatin Police Department at 452-1313.

#### GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DEBRIS REMOVAL

- ☒ Please contact your homeowner's insurance company to arrange for the disposal of major home debris and other large items. Typically, most homeowner's insurance policies will

arrange for and cover the expenses to remove storm damage debris.

- ☒ The Public Works Department will continue to provide regularly scheduled garbage pickup services throughout the City and will also continue to provide pickup services for tree and brush debris. However, at this time, only a limited amount of other types of debris may be picked up by the City.
- ☒ Please separate brush, tree, and metal/junk items into separate piles and place them by the curb for removal. These items will be picked up as soon as possible by the Public Works Department, but due to the large amount of debris to be collected, an exact schedule is not available.
- ☒ Please contact the Public Works Department at 452-2147 if you have questions about what types of storm damage debris can be picked up by the City.

#### Brush and Tree Debris Disposal

- ☒ Brush and tree debris **ONLY**, may be disposed of at a collection center located at the end of Lock 4 Road.

#### Other Storm Debris Disposal

- ☒ Other storm debris items may be taken to the Storm Debris Landfill located at the old County Rock Quarry located on Odoms Bend Road. Signs will be posted directing traffic to the site.
  - Directions from S. Water Avenue (SR-109): Odoms Bend Road is located off S. Water Avenue just before the Cumberland River Bridge. Follow the signs approximately 1½ miles to the landfill.
  - Directions from Steam Plant Road: Odoms Bend Road is located near the entrance road to the TVA Steam Plant and the intersection of Newton Lane. Follow the signs approximately ¾ mile to the landfill.

#### UTILITY INFORMATION

- ☒ Contrary to recent reports in the media, the quality of the drinking water in Gallatin is safe. The City's main concern after the storm was to restore power to the equipment that pumps water into the City's water storage tanks. At no time was the quality of Gallatin's drinking water ever threatened.
- ☒ Contact the Public Utilities Department at 451-5922, or stop by the business office located at 239 Hancock Street to inactivate your water and gas account for any

residences that can no longer be lived in due to major damage caused by the tornado. Inactivating your account will help avoid your being charged a minimum utility bill. There is no fee to reestablish water and gas service accounts once a residence has been repaired or rebuilt and approved for a certificate of occupancy.

- ☒ Gas service in affected subdivisions will be unavailable until repair crews can determine that it is safe to restart natural gas service in those areas. Repair crews from area utility districts will be in the affected areas this week to inspect and repair gas service.
- ☒ Electric service is being reestablished in affected areas as quickly as possible depending on the extent of damage caused by the storm. Please contact 452-5152 if you have any questions about your electric service.

#### BUILDING CODE INSPECTIONS

- ☒ Codes Officials are surveying affected areas to determine the safety of structures damaged in the storms. Building inspections will be posted on effective buildings with colored signs (placards). Buildings will also be marked with the following symbols:

##### LE = Limited Entry (yellow)

- Any property owner whose house is marked for limited entry must read the note left on the structure specifying which part of the house is safe to enter. Unless otherwise noted, access is limited to property owners only.)

##### EP = Entry Prohibited (red)

##### DE = Demolish (black)

- Structures marked EP or DE means that the structure has been declared unsafe and homeowners are not allowed to go into the structure.
- ☒ In order to protect the safety of property owners, volunteers, and other disaster relief officials, the City of Gallatin urges residents to comply with the Codes Division's determination about the safety and access into affected buildings and structures.

#### Building and Demolition Permits

- ☒ A building permit and/or demolition permit must be obtained prior to beginning most major repair projects. Building permit fees have been waived for permits issued to repair storm damage. Building

- ☑ repairs and related construction activities must meet Building Codes standards adopted by the City.
- ☑ Building permit applications may be submitted by either the property owner or their authorized contractor. Please note that property owners must sign the building permit application in order for the permit to be issued.
- ☑ Please contact the Codes Division at 452-5400, ext. 345 if you have questions about damage assessment inspections or to inquire about what types of repair work require a building permit.
- ☑ In most cases, storm damage related building permits will be fast-tracked and can be issued at the time of application. Every consideration will be given to these critical applications.

**WAYS TO AVOID REPAIR SCAMS AND IDENTITY THEFT**

- ☑ The Gallatin Police Department would like to offer the following advice related to home repair scams and identity theft.

**Repair Scams**

- Try to avoid using people offering services door to door. Most reputable contractors and home repair specialist don't need to solicit work door to door.
- Use a contractor or home repair business that you have done business with in the past.
- Get recommendations for contractors and home repair businesses from friends and family.
- Take the time to check references. Have a friend or relative make these calls for you.
- Never pay up front the full amount quoted for the work. Agree on a percentage up front then the balance when the work is completed.
- Get in writing what work is to be completed on your residence and the amount to be charged for the work.
- Try to use contractors and businesses that are licensed through the state of Tennessee and who have insurance on their workers. Again, have a friend or relative check this information
- Don't be pressured into making an agreement, take the time to check out the contractor or business.

**Identity Theft**

- Contact your bank and let them know your property was damaged in the tornado. Cancelled checks and important papers may have been carried by the wind several counties away.
- Contact the major credit reporting agencies and have

- them place an alert on your accounts for unusual activity.
- Check your credit report periodically for the next few months.
- Trans Union—1-800-888-4213
- Experian – 1-888-397-3742
- Equifax – 1-800-686-1111
- ☑ Contact the Gallatin PD at 452-1313 if you have questions or to obtain additional information.

**QUICK REFERENCE INFORMATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

- ☑ **City Hall:** 452-5400
  - **Mayor's Office:** ext. 329
  - **Codes Division:** ext. 345
- ☑ **Public Utilities:**
  - 451-5922 (water, gas, sewer service questions)
- ☑ **Electric Department:**
  - 452-5152
- ☑ **Public Works:**
  - 452-2147 (garbage pickup, brush and tree debris, other storm damage debris questions)
- ☑ **Police Department:**
  - 452-1313 (Non-emergency)
- ☑ **FEMA Relief: To be announced, contact City Hall for updated information.**
- ☑ **Gallatin Chamber of Commerce Volunteer and Disaster Relief Services:** 452-4000
- ☑ **Pet/Animal Care Information:**
  - Tommy Cox – Animal Control, 451-5949
- ☑ **Emergency Aid Station**
  - Located at S. Water Avenue (SR-109) and Airport Road. Services currently available: Mental health, first aid, preliminary financial aid information, bulk items such as gloves, flashlights, trash bags, paper towels, bottled water, and prepackaged snack items.
  - FEMA Response Center location to be announced.
- ☑ **IRS Income Tax Meeting**  
**April 20, 2006**  
**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**
  - Gallatin City Hall, 132 W. Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers. IRS agents will be available to answer questions and help citizens reconstruct lost or destroyed income tax records
  - Property owners with immediate questions should call the IRS at 1-866-562-5227 or 1-800-829-1040. Information is not yet available whether the IRS will extend Monday's income tax filing deadline for taxpayers in tornado affected areas.
  - Taxpayers should save receipts related to the cost of repairing tornado damage, including documentation concerning insurance reimbursements.

- ☑ **Collection Center Established for Lost and Found Items Recovered From Tornado Debris**
  - Item such as Memorabilia, Pictures, and Personal Records are being collected at the storage building by the outdoor swimming pool in Municipal Park.
  - Persons wishing to drop off or view items at the Collection Center should call the Gallatin Civic Center at 451-5911.
  - Items may be dropped off or viewed during normal Civic Center business hours. Currently the Collection Center is only available by appointment by calling the Civic Center.
  - Valuable items such as jewelry should be taken directly to the Gallatin Police Department.
- ☑ **Automobiles recovered from the storm cleanup will be taken to the Sumner County Fairgrounds parking lot located on Fairground Road behind the U.S. Post Office.**



**The Mayor, Gallatin City Council Members, and City Employees would like to express to all residents and businesses, the City of Gallatin's commitment to helping this wonderful City to fully recover from this disaster. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the service providers listed in this bulletin for assistance. Updated Information will be distributed as necessary and as new information becomes available.**

**INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE GALLATIN CITY LIMITS**

County residents can utilize much of the information provided in the Disaster Relief Bulletin. The following list of contact numbers may be substituted for County service providers.

- ☑ **Sumner County Government**
  - **County Executive:** 452-3064
  - **Codes Department:** 452-1467
  - **Highway Dept.:** 452-2632
  - **Sheriff's Dept.** 452-2616
- ☑ **Cumberland Electric:** 452-3703
- ☑ **Nashville Electric Service:**
  - 736-6900